

## **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

### **STATUS OF CLAIMS**

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of pending Claims 1-18 in light of the following remarks.

### **CLAIM REJECTION – 35 U.S.C. §102(e)**

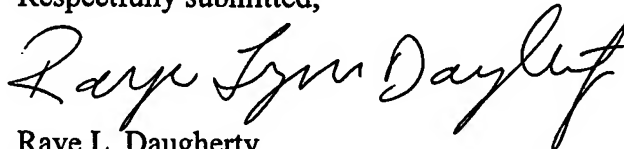
Claims 1-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,975,519 issued to Siahpolo et al. (hereinafter “Siahpolo”). The current application, U.S. Patent Application No. 10/502,131, is a 35 U.S.C. § 371 national stage application of PCT/US03/01773 filed on January 21, 2003, and further claiming the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/350,415 filed on January 21, 2002. As a result, the earliest priority date of the current application is January 21, 2002. Siahpolo was filed on April 17, 2003, and does not claim priority to any earlier filings. Thus, Siahpolo was filed after the earliest priority date of the current application. Accordingly, Siahpolo is not prior art to the current application under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), because Siahpolo is not “a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent.” 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)(2). In addition, Siahpolo is not prior art to the current application under any other section of 35 U.S.C. § 102. Thus, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Siahpolo.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of pending Claims 1-18.

Respectfully submitted,



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